

health care benefits of federal employees and retirees as well as their spouses and survivors. Dulles Chapter 1241 is one of more than 1600 NARFE chapters nationwide.

The Charter for Chapter 1241 was issued June 21, 1972. At that time, there were 9 members. Today, the Chapter membership has grown to approximately 350 members with another 400 national members in the Dulles jurisdiction. Chapter members have had a strong voice in many national and local legislative issues affecting federal retirees, senior citizens, and the public at large. In 2015, following the dissolution of the Leesburg Chapter, the Dulles Chapter welcomed many of these federal employees and retirees into their ranks with open arms. Chapter 1241 has worked from their founding to represent federal employees, but also to better their community.

This chapter has supported Alzheimer's research for many years through regular drawings, the "Red Pot" for monthly donations, and the Alzheimer's Christmas Challenge. Additionally, the Dulles chapter has sponsored several food drives for Fairfax County food pantries, collecting resources for those who have been hit the hardest by misfortune. Throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Dulles Chapter has seen its share of hardship, but these federal employees have still banded together to ensure that everyone's needs are met.

Over the years, members have also participated in health and community fairs, auto shows, and other outreach activities. Additionally, many members have been active leaders in the Virginia Federation of NARFE. These accomplished federal employees have earned the attention and praise of numerous bodies, from Virginia state legislators to NARFE national leaders, as well as travel, medical, insurance, tax, and law enforcement experts.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Dulles Chapter 1241 for 50 years of dedicated service to Northern Virginia's federal employees. These individuals are the lifeblood of our federal government, and I am grateful for their service and proud to represent such outstanding individuals. I wish them the best for their anniversary, and continued success in future endeavors.

#### RECOGNIZING JEFFREY HUGH ASHFORD ON HIS RETIREMENT

#### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 22, 2022*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise as Chair of the Appropriations Committee, and on behalf of the Members of the Committee, and its staff, to pay tribute to Jeffrey "Jeff" Ashford as he retires following nearly 4 decades of government service, including over 25 years with the House Appropriations Committee.

Jeff began his career in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and later joined the International Security Affairs Branch of the International Affairs Division within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), where he developed and oversaw security assistance and arms control budgets and programs.

Later, after serving the HM Treasury in London for 2 years, Jeff returned to OMB, this time within the State-USIA Branch where he developed and oversaw the budget for several State Department programs.

Jeff came home to the House Appropriations Committee in 1997, first serving on the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Subcommittee. He led the Committee's work on Treasury's law enforcement efforts, drug programs, and personnel agencies. In 2003, Jeff took on the difficult task of working for the newly established Subcommittee on Homeland Security. Jeff's work was particularly important in ensuring that the new programs, tasked with protecting the American people, were properly funded and that the Committee's priorities were considered. He also helped ensure that the Committee exercised strong and responsible oversight over the Department of Homeland Security, especially during a complicated period of transition.

Since 2013, Jeff has served on the staff of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies subcommittee. Jeff has helped the Committee and its Members effectively navigate, negotiate, and resolve politically-sensitive issues. His profound technical knowledge of the Justice Department, including its law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and prisons and the Civil Rights and National Security divisions, has benefited the Committee greatly and ensured the Department works most effectively for the American people.

Jeff's tenacious work ethic and his expert knowledge of the issues under our Committee's jurisdiction have made him an unparalleled asset to the committee. Even during trying circumstances, Jeff always brings with him unfailing good humor and even keel. His hard work has made our government work better and our Congress and this Committee stronger. His dedication to this body and to the American people have made him a truly unique and irreplaceable asset.

I speak for myself and all Members of the Committee in saying we will miss Jeff's incredible understanding of the federal budget and his hard work and dedication greatly.

I am excited for what the future holds for Jeff and wish him, his wife Lori, and his children Chloe and Sylvia the very best. Congratulations on a wonderful career. Our Nation and this body will miss Jeff and are deeply thankful to him for his leadership.

#### ELMER BEACH: LIFE AND LEGACY

#### HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 22, 2022*

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember a longtime constituent, Elmer Beach.

Elmer passed away on December 3, 2022, and he left behind a legacy of service to our Nation. At 100 years of age, Elmer had lived a full life as a member of the "Greatest Generation." He served during World War II as a proud U.S. Marine. He saw action in Guam, Bougainville, and Guadalcanal. And bore a scar on his leg from a Japanese dagger on Iwo Jima. He didn't talk about his service. But Elmer was more than a warrior. He was a father of 7 and a loving husband.

He was kind, humble, and never complained—and he never stopped loving his country.

#### ADDRESSING THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE ONE FINAL TIME

#### HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 22, 2022*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the People's House for one final time.

While it's hard to sum up all the lessons that I've learned over the past 10 years as a Member of Congress and 16 years as a district staffer, I'd like to take the opportunity to say thanks.

I thank the people of the 13th District of Illinois for allowing me the honor to represent them. Over the years we've been able to achieve some big wins for hardworking families throughout our district, including successfully updating the tax code by passing the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, making regulatory reforms to speed up federal highway projects and save taxpayer dollars through my One Federal Decision Act, and the passage of the Small Community Transit Improvement Act to help secure additional federal transit dollars for downstate Illinois communities that rely on transit systems.

It's also been a pleasure to fight on behalf of our farmers by helping to write two farm bills that included provisions to strengthen critical farm programs and increase federal support for agricultural research.

We also helped secure wins for our military over the years in the annual National Defense Authorization Act, and for our veterans through the passage of important bills like the Hire More Heroes Act—my bill to help small businesses hire veterans by amending Obamacare.

I'm also proud of the work we've done to address the student loan crisis, including the passage of the Employer Participation in Repayment Act, legislation I wrote to create a unique public-private partnership.

We've fought for families, who like my own, have fought cancer. Drawing inspiration from my wife Shannon, we advocated for increased federal funding into cancer research and access to cancer treatment and prevention. We passed my bipartisan Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act, which was signed into law in 2020, to decrease colorectal cancer deaths by increasing cancer screenings.

These wins were made possible thanks to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who were willing to work together to help make life better for our constituents back home. I also thank my district and D.C. staff who served in the trenches alongside me during some of these tough legislative fights.

I also want to thank my incredible team at the Committee on House Administration, where I've had the honor to serve as the Ranking Member. We've been able to navigate unprecedented times together, including the House's continuity of operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and 2020 shutdown of D.C. as the House shifted to full telework. We understood that no matter the circumstances,